



A view of the Upper San Joaquin River, which is part of the Millerton Area Watershed.

Purpose

This project expands a small watershed group-the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition-into a broad-based coalition of property owners, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the Millerton Area Watershed.

Project Goals

- Build a community-based watershed group to focus on issues of concern in the Millerton Area Watershed.
- Collect and analyze data for a watershed assessment.
- Develop a proposal for a comprehensive watershed management plan.
- Provide education programs to landowners and local stakeholders.
- Create a repository for information about the Millerton Area Watershed.

Award Amount
\$102,154

Watershed
Portions of San Joaquin River and tributaries, above Millerton Lake

County
Fresno and Madera Counties

CALFED Region
San Joaquin Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 19
State Assembly: 25
State Senate: 14

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Millerton Area Watershed is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and includes multiple tributaries to the San Joaquin River. The primary uses for the land and water in the Millerton area are ranching and recreation, both of which affect water quality and the quality of the ecosystem. The Millerton Area Watershed Coalition focuses much of its attention on these land and water uses and coordinates citizen management of ranching and recreation to lessen sedimentation and improve water quality and ecosystem health, thus contributing to an objective of the Water Quality Program to reduce sediment in the San Joaquin River region. This project is also furthering CALFED Program goals by improving coordination and collaboration among government agencies, other organizations, and local landowners.

Project Overview

The Millerton Area Watershed consists of approximately 100,000 acres on both sides of the San Joaquin River. The majority of the watershed is privately owned and ranges from large cattle ranches to small-parcel home sites. The area also provides important recreational opportunities. Both ranching and recreation have potential to affect water quality as well as quality of the ecosystem. The formation of the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition is uniting local stakeholders to address issues of concern in their watershed. The Coalition is broad-based and inclusive of all interests with the ultimate goal of ensuring that water quality and quantity are sustainably managed with due consideration of economic and social issues.

Initial steps in the formation of the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition include informing all landowners and other stakeholders about the development of the Coalition. Their participation is encouraged and their input is solicited on key issues. Within the 2-year timeframe of the grant, the Millerton Area Watershed Coalition will be a fully functioning and effective body that will have accomplished the following:

- Begin collecting and analyzing data for a watershed assessment to identify existing and potential stressors that affect water quality and quantity.
- Create a plan to fund and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan.
- Provide a minimum of four education programs to landowners and the local community focused on issues related to watershed protection and best management practices.
- Create a repository for information related to the Millerton Area Watershed.



Finegold Creek is an important water source for the San Joaquin River.

Contact Information

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